

IMPORTANT AND SPECIAL NOTICE.

In order to close out our large, varied and extensive stock of DRESS GOODS, PRINTS, DOMESTICS, HOSIERY, TRIMMINGS, HATS, GLOVES, GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS, BOOTS, SHOES, EMBROIDERED BIBBONS, HANDBERETTES, GLOVES, SOCIETY MEETING UNDERWEAR, SHAWLS, LINENS, TABLE DAMASKS, TOWELINGS, BLACK ALPACAS, BOOTS and SHOES, CARPETS, OILCLOTHS, RUGS, MATS, OTTOMANS, &c., &c., to make room for Spring Stock, we have marked down our prices, and for the next sixty days from this date will sell REGARDLESS OF COST. We have just received a large quantity of goods, bought for cash from several bankrupt stocks in New York, at unprecedentedly low prices. We offer Dress Goods at 25c. a yard, and large lines of other goods in proportion.

We are daily receiving NOVELTIES for the HOLIDAYS, and will offer them at prices to suit the times. We invite all in want of goods to examine our assortment, as we offer such inducements to buyers in NEW and DESIRABLE GOODS that they very seldom see. Our goods are all new and of good quality, having been selected with care, and specially adapted to the market, enabling us to meet any competition of whatever character. Our salesmen are polite and attentive, and will take pleasure in showing goods at the

Grand Central Dry Goods Establishment or WM. D. LOVE & CO.

52 Samples sent gratuitously upon application. Dec 20

SHOES!

SHOES!

SHOES!

LADIES', GENTS', MISSES' and CHILDREN'S fine SHOES, far below regular prices. Now is the time to buy good goods at low prices, at old stand of

R. C. SHIVER & CO.

Dec 22

A CARD.

The Laurel Street

GROCERY ESTABLISHMENT

IS now open to the public, offering the GREATEST INDUCEMENTS known to the trade. The proprietor is so confident of the superiority of his goods that he asks no discrimination in his favor as compared with anything in this market; so that you can at once encourage Southern industry, and at the same time directly serve your interest, by purchasing from this reliable house. Offering every reasonable facility to customers, I beg an humble share of public patronage.

Dec 1 JOHN E. GYLES, Agent.

GOOD THINGS.

100 barrels NORTHERN APPLES.

200 boxes CANDY.

100 boxes RAISINS.

200 cases CANNED FRUITS.

Pecans, Almonds, Oranges, Lemons, Walnuts, &c., wholesale and retail, as low as any house in this country.

LORICK & LOWRANCE.

SACRED MUSIC BOOKS

FOR 1875.

RIVER OF LIFE. (35 cts.) A most beautiful Sunday School Book. H. S. Perkins and W. W. Benson.

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THOMAS' QUARTETS AND ANTHEMS. (\$2.50.) Perfect music of the best class, for Quartet Choirs. J. H. Thomas.

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All books sent, post-paid, for retail price. OLIVER DITSON & CO., Boston.

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Jan 10 1875 711 Broadway, New York.

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, SILVER AND PLATED WARE, SPECTACLES, EYE-GLASSES, ETC.

I HAVE a large stock of the above on hand, and will sell them at the lowest cash prices. All goods warranted as represented.

Watches, Clocks and Jewelry repaired and work warranted.

GEO. BRUNS, Columbia Hotel Block.

50 Cases Ottawa Champagne.

THIS WINE is fully equal to the French and imported Champagne.

Dec 18 J. C. SEEGER.

THE DAILY PHOENIX.



BY J. A. SELBY. COLUMBIA, S. C., WEDNESDAY MORNING, JANUARY 13, 1875 VOL. X—NO. 254

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, S. C., January 12, 1875.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In the inaugural address which I had the honor to deliver before the general assembly, I stated that, "owing to the want of the information to be obtained from the reports of the various officers in charge of the several departments of the government and the public institutions," it would become my duty at a subsequent time to present to you some additional information and recommendations concerning several important interests of the State.

In accordance with that announcement, and in the discharge of the duty imposed upon the governor by the constitution, "from time to time to give to the general assembly information of the condition of the State, and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary or expedient," I call attention to the serious public inconvenience resulting from the delay on the part of the officers from whom annual reports are required in furnishing the same. Even at this late day, nearly two months and a half after the close of the last fiscal year, and seven weeks after the annual meeting of the general assembly, I have barely been able to obtain several of the most important reports in time to make a brief and imperfect examination of their contents. My public duty will, perhaps, be discharged by calling your attention to the great detriment thereby occasioned to the public service. If such delays arise from causes beyond the control of our public officers, then, if possible, the general assembly should remove those causes; but if they arise from other causes, a remedy ought to be devised and applied.

STATE TREASURER'S REPORT. The report of the state treasurer will, I think, be found to be a luminous and complete exhibit of the operations of that department. The observations of the state treasurer upon the several matters discussed in his report will likewise deserve your careful consideration.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS. I desire especially to call attention to the prime importance, as urged by the state treasurer, of keeping the appropriations within the receipts. This is manifest without argument. All proper deductions should be made from the gross amount of the taxes to be levied, and a rigid estimate, based upon the results of former levies, should be reached before the rate of taxation is fixed. After this has been done, the appropriations from the proceeds of the levies made should never be allowed to exceed, by a single dollar, the estimate of the amount of such proceeds. As the state treasurer justly remarks: "This is absolutely essential to the restoration of the credit of the State, and the success and prosperity of our public institutions."

In this connection, I call attention to the statement on page 12 of the comptroller-general's report of the total taxable property of the State under the recent assessment, and the amounts to be realized therefrom under the specific levies made by the act to raise supplies for the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1874. I am confident the estimates there made are the highest limits which will be reached under those levies. If this be so, it is absolutely necessary that the appropriations to be made at the present session should in no instance exceed the amounts there specified. One palpable departure from this rule has already occurred in the legislative appropriation bill passed at the present session, and I trust no other similar departures will receive the sanction of the general assembly.

In this connection, I call attention to the estimate of supplies for the support of the State government, at page 101 of the comptroller-general's report. The whole amount required, according to that estimate, for "salaries and contingent funds," is no less than \$212,450; whereas at page 12, of the same report, the whole amount to be realized from the levy made for the same purpose is only \$150,476.51. If this estimate, therefore, is made the basis of the appropriations, there will be a deficiency of \$61,973.49. It is manifest that such a result must be avoided, and I point it out in order that it may receive the attention which it demands.

OVERDRAWN WARRANTS AND DRAFTS. I incur especially in the views expressed by the state treasurer upon the evil and unjust practice which has prevailed of drawing warrants or drafts on the state treasurer in excess of the appropriations from which they are payable. I think this evil should be checked by immediate legislation. Towards those who, in good faith, accept such overdrafts in payment of dues from the State, such a practice may be properly denounced as fraudulent.

COMPTROLLER-GENERAL'S REPORT.

The report of the comptroller-general presents a well arranged mass of information, which will deserve the consideration of the general assembly.

I call the attention of the general assembly to two statements, at page 12, of "the total taxable property of the State," namely, \$141,624,952. The corresponding amount under the former assessment was \$176,966,502.74. I also call attention, with approval, to the observations of the comptroller-general, at pages 13 and 14, respecting a change in the time of the

year when property should be listed, the necessity of a revision of the present general tax act, and additional legislation in regard to forfeited lands.

DELINQUENT COUNTY TREASURERS.

I call special attention to the fact, as stated by the comptroller-general at page 15, that the sum of \$470,090.20 remains charged against county treasurers on the books of his office; that amount being about 15 per cent. of all State taxes collected since 1868. While only a part, possibly a small part, of that sum is actually due to the State, yet no reason of which I am aware exists why this entire sum should not at once be "accounted for." I, therefore, join with the comptroller-general in asking "stringent laws providing severe and prompt punishment" be enacted to prevent such results in the future, and also that the attorney-general and solicitors be directed to use all existing legal means to compel an immediate settlement of all unsettled accounts of county treasurers, and the recovery of the amounts found due, by suits, if necessary, against the sureties.

CLAIMS OF THOMAS W. PRICE COMPANY. The comptroller-general has called the attention of the general assembly to the character of the claims of the Thomas W. Price Company, of Philadelphia, for books and blanks furnished for the use of county auditors and treasurers for receiving the returns and assessing and collecting the State and county taxes.

There is also an unpaid claim of the same company on account of work done for the superintendent of education, as stated at page 24 of that officer's report for 1873, amounting to \$4,539.35, which is equally meritorious.

The work of this company was superior in quality, was done at the lowest prices, and under circumstances which entitle the company to our grateful consideration. I transmit herewith copies of the correspondence relating to this matter, and I trust that the general assembly will not fail to give it prompt attention.

BONDS OF COUNTY AUDITORS AND TREASURERS.

I transmit with this message copies of a circular letter issued by the comptroller-general and approved by the governor, fixing the amounts of the bonds of county auditors, and also requiring all county treasurers now in office to comply within thirty days with the requirements of law respecting their official bonds. The governor is authorized to fix the amounts of the bonds of county auditors, and I have endeavored to exercise this power in a manner which will secure the public interests.

OBsolete ACCOUNTS.

The comptroller-general, at page 18 of his report, calls attention to the fact that the books of his office—and the same is true of the books of the treasurer's office—are burdened with certain accounts which are really obsolete, representing values which do not now exist. These accounts must be annually carried forward until authority is given to the comptroller-general and the treasurer to close them. For obvious reasons, as well as in accordance with numerous precedents in this State and elsewhere, I join with the comptroller-general in recommending that authority be given by the general assembly to finally close all such accounts.

VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COMPTROLLER-GENERAL.

The comptroller-general has called attention to the vacancy which will arise on the fourth of March next in the office of comptroller-general, occasioned by the election of the present incumbent as a member of the forty-fourth congress. I need not do more than to remind the general assembly that it will be necessary to provide some mode of filling such a vacancy.

INSURANCE DEPOSITS.

In my inaugural address I ventured to say that, in my judgment, good policy dictated the repeal of the present laws requiring deposits from insurance companies not incorporated by this State. Further examination and reflection confirms me in that opinion. The supposed security to policy-holders from requiring such deposits is fallacious. If a company is sound, there is not the least difficulty in recovering any loss by process of law, and if it is unsound, the fact of a deposit being made in this State would afford very little protection to our policy-holders in case of disaster to the company. It is, moreover, a serious legal question whether these deposits can be so questioned from the general assets of a company as to prevent their becoming a part of the general fund applicable to the payment of all creditors in case of the insufficiency of other assets. The general effect of requiring such deposits is to exclude the best companies and admit the weakest, except in cases where the sacrifice of withdrawing from the State overbalances the injury to the company by scattering its funds in the manner required.

I transmit herewith a letter addressed to me officially by an eminent insurance authority, in which the whole matter is discussed in a most clear and conclusive manner. I hereby renew my former recommendations of a repeal of the present laws on this subject, in order to allow free competition in this branch of business, under such restrictions only as have regard to the general character and strength of the several companies.

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR COLLECTION OF TAXES.

In connection with the comptroller-general's report, I desire to correct a misapprehension now widely prevailing as to

the power of the governor and comptroller-general in extending the time for the collection of taxes.

In the tax act of 1868, in section 147, authority was given to the state auditor, with the approval of the governor, to extend the time for the performance of the duties required of any officer by that act. It is more than doubtful whether this provision ever gave power to the governor and state auditor to extend the time for the collection of taxes. However that may be, that section was repealed by the act of March 8, 1871 (vol. 14, Statutes at Large, p. 622). No similar power was again conferred on any officer until the passage of the act of February 6, 1874, (acts of 1873-74, p. 533). The latter act was expressly limited in its application to the fiscal year commencing November 1, 1873, and its operation, of course, ceased with that year.

The result is that the only power now possessed by any executive officer or officers to extend the time for the collection of taxes is conferred by section 139 of the act of March 19, 1874 (acts 1873-74, p. 778), which is in the following words: "That whenever the general assembly shall fail to make the annual levy of taxes, or the collection of the same may be in any way delayed, it shall be the duty of the comptroller-general to notify each county treasurer that the penalty for non-payment shall not attach until after the expiration of sixty days from the date of his public announcement of his readiness to collect the said taxes."

Under this section the governor has no power to act, and the power of the comptroller-general is limited to cases of delay in commencing the collection of taxes at the regular time. I call special attention to this statement of the law in order to relieve myself of the frequent and urgent applications made to me for my action in postponing the collection of taxes.

If any further legislation on the subject is needed, it will be the duty of the general assembly to provide it.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

The comptroller-general's report covers that of the superintendent of the lunatic asylum. This institution deserves the generous support of the State. In many respects its present condition is very satisfactory. The buildings have been greatly improved, and the domestic economy of the institution and the professional treatment of the patients are believed to be worthy of high commendation.

It is, however, the financial condition of the institution which will require most serious attention. It appears that there was a debt owing by the institution of \$55,295.55 at the close of the last fiscal year, October 31, 1874. This debt results from the excess of expenditures over receipts for several years past. From whatever motive expenditure beyond the means provided for meeting them are made, the practice is not to be approved. No public officer, under anything less than very extraordinary circumstances, can be justified in assuming to incur obligations for the public without express authority of law.

It is proper to call attention at this point to the act of March 17, 1874, "to regulate the manner in which public funds shall be disbursed by public officers." This act makes it a felony "for any public officer (State or county) to enter into a contract, for any purpose whatsoever, in a sum in excess of the tax levied or the amount appropriated for the accomplishment of such purpose." Hereafter, therefore, no expenditures can be made in excess of the appropriation. The amount of tax for the support of penal, charitable and educational institutions has already been fixed for the present fiscal year. This levy will not permit the appropriation of a single dollar for payment of past indebtedness. By reference to page 12 of the comptroller-general's report the amount to be realized from this levy will be about \$150,000. By reference to the act making appropriations for the last fiscal year it will be seen that the total appropriations under the same head were upwards of \$190,000. It is clear, therefore, that no appropriations can be made for the present year in excess of those of last year. I cannot, therefore, consent to recommend an increased appropriation for the lunatic asylum for the present fiscal year, unless it can be shown from what sources funds can with certainty be obtained to meet such increased appropriations. I regret to reach such a conclusion, for no one can have a stronger sympathy with this institution than I have, or a more ardent wish to increase its efficiency and extend its blessings. But we must not, from sympathy or benevolence, repeat the financial mistakes of the past. It is far better for every public interest to keep our expenditures rigidly within our receipts than to cripple our merchants and ruin our public credit by contracting debts which cannot be paid, except, possibly, at some indefinite future time.

I cannot give my consent to appropriations in excess of probable receipts, nor to expenditures in excess of appropriations. I shall approve of the most generous treatment of the lunatic asylum consistent with our ability to pay our obligations when they mature, but nothing more.

I shall speak further of the action proper to be taken, in my judgment, in reference to the past indebtedness of the lunatic asylum, as well as that of the state penitentiary, at a later point in this message.

STATE PENITENTIARY.

The comptroller-general's report covers also the report of the superintendent of the penitentiary. Here, again, the feature of the report which will arrest most attention is the statement of the indebtedness of this institution. The superintendent states that the aggregate indebtedness of the institution on the 31st day of October, 1873, was \$102,238.40. He further states that the present indebtedness is \$87,918.39, of which \$12,330 has arisen during that fiscal year. Another statement is, that there is due to the guards and employees of the institution \$15,850.31. The appropriation for the penitentiary for the last fiscal year was \$51,500.

These facts present a problem not easy to solve. The remarks already made concerning the financial condition of the lunatic asylum are applicable here. The levy of taxes for the present year will not permit an increased appropriation. One thing is evident, namely, that the expenditures of this institution must hereafter be kept within the appropriations. It is difficult to see how, without direct violation of the law of March 17, 1874, already referred to, an indebtedness of \$12,330, in excess of the appropriation, could have been contracted during the last fiscal year.

I strongly urge that the immediate attention of the general assembly be directed to the question of making the labor of the penitentiary available for the support in part of the institution. I call attention to the remarks of the superintendent on this point. If the labor of the convicts can be utilized within the walls of the penitentiary, this would be the wisest plan. Mechanical pursuits are conducted in similar institutions elsewhere with profit to the State. Such labor is advantageous in many ways—as a means of discipline during the imprisonment of the convicts; as a means of encouraging habits of industry and the ability to earn an honest living when they return to freedom; and as a means of reducing the public burden of their support while in confinement. If there are no opportunities for the utilization of this labor at present, I think the plan of letting out the convicts for hire, which is adopted in many other States, is worthy of immediate consideration. I am informed that such labor in other States can be leased at a net daily profit of at least twenty cents per day for each laborer. Out of an average number of two hundred convicts, at least one hundred able-bodied laborers could be constantly furnished, and from these laborers an income of several thousand dollars, above all expense for their maintenance, might be realized. Motives of economy, as well as the good of the convicts themselves, in my judgment, require that an effort be made to obtain employment of some kind for this class of laborers, and I earnestly recommend that the attention of the general assembly be directed to this subject without delay.

NATIONAL PRISON ASSOCIATION.

I transmit herewith a letter addressed to me officially by the secretary of the National Prison Association, and in this connection I respectfully invite attention to the truly noble work in which this association is engaged. The association proposes that the several State legislatures shall, if so disposed, make a small annual appropriation, which will entitle each State to 500 or 600 volumes of the annual "Transactions of the National Prison Congress." This would place the volume in the hands of each member of successive legislatures, officers of penal and reformatory institutions, public libraries and schools.

I do not hesitate to say that such a volume, so distributed, would arouse an interest among our people in one of the most humane and successful efforts to reduce the number of our criminal classes, and to restore them to the walks of useful industry.

The most distinguished statesmen, scholars and philanthropists are officers and active promoters of the association, and I recommend that the general assembly, if possible, make the small appropriation of \$1,000, which will entitle them to the benefit of the annual publications of this association.

STATE ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The report of the trustees of the State orphan asylum has already been transmitted to the general assembly.

This institution is entitled to adequate support, and the report of the trustees will furnish, I think, the necessary information for the action of the general assembly.

EDUCATION OF THE DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND.

The institution for the education of the deaf, dumb and blind, formerly located at Cedar Springs, near Spartanburg court house, was closed in September, 1873. I regard the closing of this institution as a misfortune and reproach to our State. It was an act of educational retrogression, and a wrong to a class of our fellow-beings and fellow-citizens which has peculiar claims upon our aid and sympathy.

If the re-opening and rehabilitation of this institution can be effected by any means within the control of the general assembly, consistently with the present condition of our financial affairs, I unhesitatingly recommend that it be done without delay. If this cannot be done at once, I trust that such arrangements will be made as will secure that result during the next fiscal year.

QUARANTINE AT CHARLESTON.

The report of the health officer of the

port of Charleston has heretofore been transmitted to the general assembly. I recommend to your consideration the various suggestions made in that report. The maintenance of an efficient quarantine department at the principal port of our State, and at our other seaports generally, is a duty of too obvious importance to need special enforcement.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

The report of the secretary of state presents information of great value, covering the matters connected with the ordinary duties of that office, and also the land commission department, and the improvements upon the State house and grounds during the past year. I call attention to the recommendations of the secretary of state on page 6 of his report.

REPORT OF THE ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

I herewith transmit the annual report of the adjutant and inspector-general, with its accompanying documents and vouchers, and invite your attention to the information, as well as the various recommendations, therein contained.

REPORT OF STATE LIBRARIAN.

The report of the keeper of the state house and state librarian has been heretofore transmitted to the general assembly.

REPORT OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION.

The report of the state superintendent of education is herewith transmitted to the general assembly. I commend the entire report to the earnest attention not only of the general assembly, but of all our fellow-citizens who look to the welfare of the State. It presents the actual condition at this time of our common school system, its progress during the past year, the causes that diminish the efficiency of the system, and also points out some remedies for present evils. It may be said, in general, that the report shows a fair measure of progress during the last year. The school population of the State is 230,102; the total school attendance is 104,738, an increase of 19,144 over the school attendance of the preceding year. The number of free common schools in the State is now 2,353, an increase of 272 since the preceding report of the superintendent. The total number of teachers employed is 2,627, an increase of 253 since the preceding report. The average number of months during which the schools were actually open was only five. The number of school houses in the State is 2,228, an increase of 211 since the preceding report. The total amount of funds applicable to the common schools during the past year was \$512,924.93, of which there remains as unpaid appropriations the sum of \$29,779.71, leaving the sum of \$483,145.22 as the net school revenue of the past year. The school expenditures for the year were \$448,251.76.

I call attention to one or two facts, which appear from these statistics, and which show how far our school system still is from the standard which should be aimed at. First, the total school attendance falls considerably below one-half of the total school population, being about seventeen thirty-eighths. Second, the average period during which our schools are in session, is only five months. Our constant aim should be to increase the school attendance till it embraces all our school population, and to increase the length of time during which our schools should be in session to eight or nine months in the year. The State Superintendent calls special attention to the incapacity of many of the teachers employed. I agree with him in the fact stated, and in his suggestion of the cause of that fact. The blame rests with the Boards of County School Examiners, whose duty it is to examine all teachers. These boards consist in each County of the County School Commissioner and two persons selected by the County School Commissioner. I recommend most earnestly that the appointment of the latter examiners be given to the State Superintendent of Education. I do not wish to be understood as reflecting upon all our County School Commissioners in view of undeniable facts as to the incapacity of some of these officers. I am persuaded that the mode of appointing the examiners should be immediately changed. That being done, I think this primary cause of inefficiency in our school system—the incompetency of teachers—will be almost entirely removed. I also renew the recommendation made in my inaugural address, that high schools be provided for in each County. The amount of money required by the State Superintendent, to carry on the school system for the present year, is based upon a school year of nine months, and is undoubtedly largely in excess of the means available for that purpose. I cannot recommend any appropriation under this head in excess of our means. The motto, "Pay as you go," is applicable here as elsewhere. Even in educational matters, we cannot afford to make expenditures until we have the means to pay. I do recommend, however, that the largest appropriation possible, with a due regard to our financial necessities, be made for all our educational institutions. But what is quite as indispensable to the success of our school system, I trust that our fellow-citizens generally will take a more active personal interest in the practical working of the system. It is my purpose, during the coming season, to make some personal inspection of our schools in different parts of the State, and to seek, in some public and private ways, to call out and secure a greater interest in our people generally in this subject. In these efforts I know I shall be seconded by the State Superintendent of Education, as well as by all those who properly appreciate the relations of education and free government.

The State University, with its preparatory school, the State Normal School and the Agricultural and Me-